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RECORD YIELDS EXPECTED FOR CORN AND COTTON

According to a November 1 grower survey conducted by Tennessee Agricultural Statistics, the State's farmers are nearing the end of an outstanding growing season with record yields expected for corn and cotton. Although persistent rains during much of October caused delays in harvest of the State's cotton and soybean crops, growers remain optimistic about expected yields on the remaining acreage. Nearly all of the State's corn was harvested by the first half of October, under good weather conditions. By the first full week of November, over 50 percent of both the soybean and cotton acreage had been harvested, lagging behind last year and the 5-year average due to wet conditions. The November forecast, which is based on farmers' expectations of final yields as of the first of the month, showed the following results: **Corn**, 140 bushels per acre, up 9 bushels from a year earlier and a new state record; **Cotton**, a record 844 pounds per acre and 38 pounds above 2003; and **Soybeans**, 40 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from a year ago, but the second highest yield on record.

NEW STATE RECORD CORN YIELD

Tennessee's corn production is forecast at 85.4 million bushels, up 3 percent from last year and the largest production in 84 years. Corn yields are expected to average 140 bushels per acre, 9 bushels better than a year ago and, if realized, a new state record. The State's planted area for corn is estimated at 680,000 acres, while acreage for grain harvest is estimated at 610,000 acres, down 20,000 from the previous year. Corn producers experienced almost ideal weather conditions during the harvest season. Virtually all of the State's corn had been combined by the second week in October, ahead of last year and normal. Very few fields were impacted by the wet weather experienced later in the month.

EXCELLENT SOYBEAN YIELDS ANTICIPATED

Soybean production is forecast at 47.2 million bushels, up slightly from 2003, and the highest production since 1984. Soybean yields are expected to average 40 bushels per acre, two bushels below last year but the second highest yield on record. The 2004 soybean planted area is estimated at 1.21 million acres, while acreage for harvest is estimated at 1.18 million acres, up 5 percent from last year and the highest in 5 years. Despite recent rains delaying soybean harvest by about a two weeks, producers remain positive with record yields being reported in many areas. As of November 8, fifty-two percent of the acreage had been harvested, behind both last year and the 5-year average. Almost 80 percent of the crop was rated in good-to-excellent condition during the first half of October.

STATE RECORD COTTON YIELD

The State's cotton production is forecast at 950,000 bales, up 20,000 bales from the last forecast and 60,000 bales above 2003. If realized, this would be the second highest production on record. Cotton yields are expected to average 844 pounds of lint per acre, 38 pounds better than a year ago and a new state record. Growers expect to harvest 540,000 acres, 10,000 more than 2003. Cotton producers have experienced wet, soggy fields during the past few weeks and as of November 7, only fifty-six percent of the cotton acreage had been harvested, almost three weeks behind average. Gins have managed to stay busy despite the rains, although some modules are now stranded until fields dry. Trucks and pickers will return to fields, as soon as weather permits.

(OVER)

CROP FORECASTS: TENNESSEE AND UNITED STATES, NOVEMBER 1, 2004, WITH COMPARISONS

Crop	Unit	Harvested Acres		Yield Per Acre		Production	
		2003	Indicated 2004	2003	Indicated 2004	2003	Indicated 2004
		Thousands		Number of Units		Thousands	
TENNESSEE							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	12,000	10,000
Corn for grain	bu.	630	610	131	140	82,530	85,400
Cotton¹	lb.	530	540	806	844	890	950
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	2,000	1,950	2.30	2.50	4,600	4,875
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	3,500	3,500
Soybeans	bu.	1,120	1,180	42.0	40.0	47,040	47,200
Tobacco, All	lb.	31.14	31.38	2,108	2,118	65,632	66,472
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	5.2	5.4	2,980	3,000	15,496	16,200
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	.4	.42	3,350	3,400	1,340	1,428
Burley (31)	lb.	25.0	25.0	1,900	1,900	47,500	47,500
One-sucker (35)	lb.	.54	.56	2,400	2,400	1,296	1,344
Winter Wheat	bu.	270	280	50.0	49.0	13,500	13,720
UNITED STATES							
Apples	lb.	---	---	---	---	8,613,300	9,458,900
Corn for grain	bu.	71,139	73,311	142.2	160.2	10,113,887	11,740,920
Cotton¹	lb.	12,003	13,223	730	818	18,255	22,545
Hay, All (excluding Alfalfa)	ton	39,764	39,363	2.03	2.25	80,816	88,549
Peaches	lb.	---	---	---	---	2,519,000	2,598,400
Soybeans	bu.	72,476	73,990	33.9	42.6	2,453,665	3,150,441
Tobacco, All	lb.	411,150	409,610	1,952	2,156	802,654	883,168
E. Dark-fired (22)	lb.	7.80	8.10	3,013	3,067	23,504	24,840
W. Dark-fired (23)	lb.	2.90	2.92	3,505	3,571	10,165	10,428
Burley (31)	lb.	152.30	154.10	1,850	1,958	281,698	301,710
One-sucker (35)	lb.	2.84	2.86	2,748	2,883	7,805	8,244
Winter Wheat	bu.	36,541	34,462	46.7	43.5	1,716,721	1,499,434

¹ Production in 480-lb. net weight bales. U.S. production includes American-Pima cotton.

REMINDER: All forecasts in this report are based on conditions about November 1 and do not reflect any possible weather affects since that time.